

10/30/69

Dear Hal,

I write to ask of you what I anticipate you will not want to do. I do it because I regard it as potentially important and because things are developing to the point where I consider it necessary for reason I will explain if they are not clear enough to you without explanation.

Recently, Dave blessed me with one of his more vituperative, more irrational letters. I have ignored it and I am not circulating it, for, regardless of what else may or is involved, I am satisfied he is at least sick and do not want to harm him on this score. Nor do I want to spread the dissension, already so crippling. At the same time he launched a tirade against another of us, in terms of me again, selecting the time when he had every reason to believe he'd be getting that one out of a sound sleep and more likely to begin with guard down. In this, as in other cases, Dave has been wrong. He has said what is false. But as has been true in other cases, is close enough to current developments to eliminate a combination of luck and shrewd guesses as explanations, and he is also close enough to knowing what is talking about (though very wrong) to indicate what cannot be regarded as less than extensive espionage on his part. The alternative, that he has a source on the other side, is not comforting.

Therefore, I ask you to consider for yourself what kind of research what kind of motivation, what purpose is served by either alternative, that has such a source, who is informed by such possibilities as mail interception or that he can devote such time and effort to espionage against one of us? you can reach any belief other than that we should be concerned, please communicate it to me.

I want to do nothing about or against him. I usually ignore what he does and says, and I hope only that he does not bring new disasters to our side. However, there is now a sufficient accumulation of legitimate suspicion to make me feel I should write you frankly about this, in our own protection. What I want to do is establish that he can have enough innocent sources, people who do what they have been asked not to, or that I cannot. I try to keep them I trust informed on what I am doing. However, as I approach the filing of a suit against the government, I think you can see the dangers inherent in the situation. My own belief is that he is a sicker man than those of you who are closer to him realize, a man who can be used by those desiring it by exploitation of his desires and other strange attributes, but more and more the possibility intrudes itself and cannot be ignored. So, knowing as I do that you will not want to, nonetheless ask you to take the time

to tell me everything you may know or have reason to suspect than can reasonably have any bearing on this. In return, I promise to respect any reservation you place on this. If you place none, the only person I would inform is Gary, for I believe it desirable that someone else be informed. Gary is to me the ideal one because Dave made the very foolish mistake of daring Gary to confront me with the libels he was making up and believing (he has also invoked quite a number of other people, some of whom I believe have not spoken to him in years). I then took the time and spent the money to copy everything from my files that addressed the questions Gary asked me. So, without desirring it, Gary is the one who has the knowledge. I gave Gary this material from my files with the restriction that he show it to no one. I tell you, Hal, you have some wierdos out there. Fred has lied to Gary regularly, and to others. I have sent Gary those things from my early correspondence with Fred that bear on this. Believe me, it is all other than Fred/Dave have said. And again, I think it is past time for the rational ones to ask themselves why such things are done, what purpose(s) they can serve.

While I cannot prove it, I am now satisfied that Dave has actually turned off a number of researchers. This is hardly constructive, regardless of how he explains it to himself or others (he has actually said he "got them out of the bag they were in"). Meanwhile, I lean over so far to avoid anything his sick or evil mind can distort that two weeks ago, when I was in the Archives and Bud was with me, and I had asked for two files, giving one to Bud, when he showed me the slip with Lifton's name on it (I took it the pages had been removed for his order or the slip had been put in to mark his order) I asked Bud to flip the page so I could not even see its number.

If there is nothing wrong with Dave, he certainly can withstand scrutiny. There is something wrong with his endless espionage against me. It is wrong if honest for him to refer, as he has, to his stealing material. I hope you can come to see the need for what I ask. We have sustained more debacles than we can hope to. The consequences of some are still apparent. Let us avoid those we may be able to. If you will do this, please do it as completely and as soon as you can.

Sincerely,